

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 00811 041024Z

53

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /055 W

----- 017944

R 032045Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9784

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 0811

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, AR

SUBJECT: RUMORS CONTINUE BUT LOPEZ REGA STILL IN PLACE

REF BA 718 NOTAL

1. RUMOR MILL REMAINS ACTIVE, THOUGH MORE SERIOUS OBSERVERS ARE BY NOW CONVINCED THAT THE WILDEST OF LAST WEEK'S RUMORS (SEE REFTE) WERE BASED ON LITTLE MORE THAN IMAGINATION. THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING BENEATH THE SMOKE, HOWEVER, IS SUGGESTED BY THREE HARD FACTS: A) MRS PERON DID MOVE TO NAVAL BASE AND MOVE HAS NOT BEEN SATISFACTORILY EXPLAINED; B) LOPEZ REGA DID DROP OUT OF SIGHT FOR ALMOST FOUR DAYS EARLY LAST WEEK--AGAIN, WITHOUT SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION (HE SIMPLY SAYS HE "WAS WORKING"; ONE REPORT, HOWEVER, HAS IT THAT HE TRAVELLED TO BRAZIL FOR UNKNOWN REASON); AND C) THIRD FACT, WHICH CAME TO LIGHT IN KAHN-ROCAMORA INTERVIEW (SEE SEPTTEL), WAS THAT PRIOR TO MOVING TO NAVAL BASE, MRS PERON HAD SEEN ALL THREE MILITARY CINCS.

2. DESPITE FACT THAT MRS PERON RETURNED TO BUENOS AIRES JAN 31 ACCOMPANIED BY LOPEZ REGA AND DEFENSE MINISTER SAVINO, MANY OBSERVERS CONTINUE TO BELIEVE UNEXPLAINED EVENTS OF LAST WEEK CENTERED AROUND EFFORT TO CLIP LOPEZ REGA'S WINGS. ACCORDING TO THIS LINE OF REASONING, PRESIDENT AND INTERIOR MINISTER ROCAMORA HAVE EMERGED IN STRENGTHENED POSITION, WHILE LOPEZ REGA

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUENOS 00811 041024Z

HAS BEEN REDUCED A PEG OR TWO. THIS IS BASED LARGELY ON LOPEZ

REGA'S OWN STATEMENT OF JAN 30 IN WHICH HE: A) SAID HE HAD NO POLITICAL FUNCTION, BUT, RATHER, WAS SIMPLY ONE CABINET MINISTER AMONG SEVERAL; B) RECOGNIZED ROCAMORA AS THE SENIOR CABINET MINISTER; C) INSISTED THAT HIS RELATIONS WITH MILITARY WERE GOOD; AND D) DENIED RUMORS OF IMPENDING CABINE CHANGES.

3. SOME HERE ARE INTERPRETING FIRST THREE POINTS AS SOMETHING OF A PUBLIC ASSURANCE ON LOPEZ REGA'S PART THAT HE WILL HENCEFORTH CONFINE HIMSELF TO HIS PROPER DUTIES. WHILE IN STATEMENT HE DOES INDEED SEEM TO "PROTEST TOO MUCH", EMBASSY BELIEVES SUCH INTERPRETATION IS BASED MORE ON WISHFUL THINKING THAN ON FACT. THERE IS NO CONCRETE EVIDENCE THAT LOPEZ REGA'S POWER AND INFLUENCE HAVE BEEN REDUCED. THE LENGTHY KAHN-ROCAMORA INTERVIEW PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED DOES IMPLY SOME SHIFT IN ATMOSPHERE--FIRST, IN BOLDNESS OF KAHN'S QUESTIONS CONCERNING LOPEZ REGA, AND, SECONDLY, IN THAT, DESPITE CAUTION OF REPLIES, INTERVIEW SUGGESTS SOME STRENGTHENING OF ROCAMORA'S POSITION. THIS, HOWEVER, COULD BE PURE COSMETICS. LOPEZ REGA'S EXPANDED POSITION HAS BEEN COMING IN FOR SOME POINTED CRITICISM LATELY. MRS PERON HAS IN PAST COUNTERED SUCH CRITICISM BY HAVING LOPEZ REGA RETREAT A BIT AND BY PUMPING UP IMAGE OF INTERIOR MINISTER ROCAMORA. SHE MAY BE DOING THE SAME THING IN THIS INSTANCE. IN ANY EVENT, EMBASSY WILL WAIT FOR BETTER EVIDENCE BEFORE CONCLUDING THAT LOPEZ REGA'S WINGS HAVE IN FACT BEEN CLIPPED.

4. MEANWHILE, JUST WHAT DOES LIE BEHIND THE THREE HARD FACTS CITED ABOVE REMAINS AN UNANSWERED QUESTION.
HILL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUENOS00811
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750040-0346
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750180/aaaacsqh.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BA 718
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RUMORS CONTINUE BUT LOPEZ REGA STILL IN PLACE
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, AR, (PERON, MARIA ESTELA), (LOPEZ REGA, JOSE), (ROCAMORA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006